

HOUSE BILL 1247

By Odom

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4,
Chapter 3, Part 22, relative to welcome centers
and rest stops.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 3, Part 22, is amended by
adding a new section thereto, as follows:

Section 4-3-2209. It is the intent of the state to promote and facilitate
Tennessee's natural beauty and bountiful attractions. All welcome centers supervised
by the department shall have photographs, posters, maps, music, books and other items
that illustrate Tennessee's unique heritage and wealth of endeavors, from the historic to
the peculiar, the traditional to the frivolous. Each welcome center shall emphasize
events and sites that are within a fifty-mile radius within Tennessee. A short explanation
of each event or site shall accompany each display or other promotion.

SECTION 2. The commissioner of tourist development is directed to assist the
commissioner of safety in developing materials and training staff members regarding all aspects
of Tennessee life that are endearing to its citizens and captivating to its visitors. Emphasis shall
be placed on hidden treasures that a casual observer might miss, including natural sites such as
waterfalls and caves, and man-made sites such as museums, seasonal events, and community
celebrations. The commissioner of tourist development is directed to make Tennessee's
welcome centers a place for travelers to enjoy and linger as tired limbs are stretched and eyes
are rested.

SECTION 3. The commissioner of safety and the commissioner of tourist development
shall report to the house and senate transportation committees by March 12, 2008, regarding
the implementation of this act.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.